



*"Center for Accelerated Studies] has captured the interest of my child and **increased her love of learning**. I love that my daughter's **confidence and self-esteem have improved**. She is exemplifying the 'growth mindset.' The main reason I wanted her in CAS is because of the content of the academics that would be offered. So many good things have come from CAS." ~ K. Miller - Parent 2017-18*

Dear Parents of 3rd grade students,

The Provo City School District Center for Accelerated Studies (CAS) is an accelerated program for students in 4th, 5th and 6th grades who desire a fast-paced and challenging classroom. CAS offers accelerated programs for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades at two magnet sites: Provo Peaks (Timpview boundaries) and Sunset View (Provo High boundaries). We invite interested families to attend a *CAS Open House* to learn more about the CAS program:

For students in the Timpview High boundaries:

Provo Peaks Elementary; 665 E. Center St.; Monday, January 14 (3:45-4:45 pm)

For students in the Provo High boundaries:

Sunset View Elementary; 1520 W. 600 S.; Wednesday, November 14th (6:00 - 7:00 pm)

Application for participation in the CAS program is completed by online [parent application](#) (in the preceding link). There will be 30 spaces available in each of the two school settings at each grade-level. CogAT testing will be offered at each elementary school on the dates indicated below. If you would like to have your child considered for the CAS program, you may register them online for the [CogAT test](#) (in the preceding link) or contact your child's teacher.

Testing Dates:

Amelia Earhart: Nov. 27th

Franklin: Nov. 27th

Provo Peaks: Nov. 27th

Rock Canyon: Nov. 27 - 28th

Sunset View: Nov. 27 - 28th

Spring Creek: Nov. 29 - 30th

Canyon Crest: Nov. 30th

Provost: Nov. 30th

Westridge: Nov. 30th

Edgemont: Dec. 4th

Wasatch: Dec. 5th

Lakeview: Dec. 5 - 6th

Timpanogos: Dec. 6 - 7th

Please contact Kelsey Hogue (kelseyh@provo.edu) Judy Rose (judy@provo.edu) or Karen Brock (karenbr@provo.edu) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Teaching and Learning Department

For more information about the CAS program, please visit review F.A.Q. page and the accelerated website at <https://provo.edu/teaching-learning/accelerated>.

What is an C.A.S. Classroom? A Center for Accelerated Studies (C.A.S.) classroom is composed of 30 or more accelerated students who have tested with the district on nationally normed tests and have shown ability for acceleration of academic learning.

Why would my child benefit from C.A.S. ? These classrooms are structured to serve those students that really need a faster pace, accelerated environment that is focused on a challenging, problem-solving format.

Is this a pull-out or all day program? C.A.S. is not a pull-out program. Students are placed in the program for the whole day and year in the magnet elementary schools. Enrollment in C.A.S. necessitates a move to the hosting school. Students enrolled in language dual immersion programs cannot participate in both C.A.S. and DLI at the elementary level.

What curriculum is taught in C.A.S. ? The curriculum is built upon the Utah Common Core State Standards, with students reading advanced level literature, advancing in mathematics and going deeper and broader in science and social studies. Placement in the C.A.S. class is intended to be a magnet site commitment. Classes follow the appropriate grade level curriculum and then advance the curriculum through depth and complexity. Teachers use higher level thinking strategies, creative projects, and accelerated procedures within the state curriculum guidelines. Math is intentionally and significantly accelerated throughout C.A.S. Students completing C.A.S. in 6th grade may have completed math through 7th grade. Students will typically read and analyze literature 1-2 years above their age peers in the C.A.S. program.

What is the purpose of the C.A.S. Open House?

The C.A.S. Open House is intended to explain the C.A.S. program and provide an opportunity to ask questions. The C.A.S. Open House is also an excellent opportunity for parents and students considering applying for the C.A.S. program to meet the teachers and students in C.A.S. Attendance at the C.A.S. Open House is optional and does not have any bearing on enrollment decisions.

How many C.A.S. classrooms are there? There are 2 elementary school magnet programs with 4th, 5th and 6th grade C.A.S. programs: Provo Peaks Elementary serves Timpview High School boundary schools and Sunset View Elementary serves Provo High School boundary schools.

How is my child identified for placement in C.A.S.? Students must qualify for placement through a testing identification. Students test in February prior to the year they want placement in C.A.S. Students test in their 3rd grade year for the magnet sites with 4th-6th grade programs. Students test for placement by taking the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).

What is the CogAT and where will it be administered?

The CogAT assessment is a nationally normed assessment of cognitive ability. CogAT testing will be offered at each elementary school on the following dates:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Amelia Earhart: Nov. 27th | Sunset View: Nov. 27 - 28th | Westridge: Nov. 30th |
| Franklin: Nov. 27th | Spring Creek: Nov. 29 - 30th | Edgemont: Dec. 4th |
| Provo Peaks: Nov. 27th | Canyon Crest: Nov. 30th | Wasatch: Dec. 5 - 6th |
| Rock Canyon: Nov. 27 - 28th | Provost: Nov. 30th | Timpanogos: Dec. 6 - 7th |

The CogAT testing session is approximately 2 hours. If you would like to have your child considered for the CAS program, please register them online for the [CogAT test](#) (in the preceding link) and contact your child's teacher for exact test dates and time.

What are the steps in the C.A.S. Application process?

1) Attend C.A.S. Open House (OPTIONAL) :

For students in the Timpview High boundaries:

Provo Peaks Elementary; 665 E. Center St.; Monday, January, 14th (3:45 - 4:45)

For students in the Provo High boundaries:

Sunset View Elementary; 1520 W. 600 S.; Wednesday, November 14th (6:00 - 7:00 pm)

2) Application

Application for participation in the CAS program is completed by online [parent application](#) (in the preceding link). The application window will be open November 5th - January 19th. CAS applications include a variety of measures that will be weighted (including academic achievement, teacher recommendation, parent recommendation, student survey, and CogAT® scores). The top 30 applicants for each accelerated classroom will be invited to enroll in the CAS program.

3) CogAT Registration

If you would like to have your child considered for the CAS program, you may register them online for the [CogAT test](#) (in the preceding link) or contact your child's teacher.

4) CogAT Testing

Student completes CogAT testing at his/her school site (testing results are emailed to parents within 7 business days).

5) Teacher Recommendation

Teacher recommendations will be completed by the student's current classroom teacher. The committee will contact classroom teachers for this recommendation. Parents do not need to initiate this process.

6) Committee Review

The C.A.S. committee reviews applications Jan. 20 - Feb 10, and sends out C.A.S. invitation letters February 13th and parent/student accept or decline C.A.S. membership by February 20th.

Is there bus service available? Parents are responsible for transportation of out-of-boundary students placed in C.A.S.programs.

Could my younger children attend the same magnet elementary as my C.A.S. child?

Schools try to make this accommodation for families, however depending upon the local school enrollment younger siblings cannot always be placed. Please check with the C.A.S.school and request an out-of-boundary form for younger siblings.

Is the homework time commitment expectation the same for the C.A.S.children as their non-C.A.S. peers?

Teachers work with students and parents to monitor and adjust homework. Students are not expected to do extra homework, however, many of these students have never had homework and will go through an adjustment period of learning how to manage time and assignments.

Are there any extra fees associated with this program?

There are no additional required fees.

Additional questions can be sent to: kelseyh@provo.edu or judy@provo.edu or karenbr@provo.edu